

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**City of White Sulphur Springs Urban Mule Deer Management Plan**  
**Public Comments October 17 to November 18, 2019**

1. I make numerous trips over to WSS each and every year to fulfill my hunting season as I enjoy the land and have had great success. Every trip includes the sightings of multiple mule deer in town and my knowledge of the local people has provided me plenty of insight on the damages and issues they are causing. I am a graduate of the Montana Master Hunter program and I also am beyond adequate with a firearm and have a broad spectrum of skills and knowledge in habitat, harvesting, proper and safe firearm use, population densities, etc. I would agree with the proposal for WSS to be issued a kill permit as needed for certain animals. I would propose that a population density survey be recorded and a given number of animals be included to be euthanized immediately to get the population in town to an acceptable level. I am familiar enough with the layout of WSS to know that the deer that are in town also do travel daily to water which puts them in locations where they could be safely harvested without putting anyone in town in danger. I feel that given the above information, I disagree with law enforcement being the ones to harvest the animals, I feel that law enforcement in WSS is already spread thin during the busy portion of hunting season which fits right in the proposed acceptable dates for harvest and I feel that law enforcements abilities and funding would be wasted on having to add this issue to their already overwhelming list of duties. I would propose that a fitting individual be selected and that individual would be required to gather information and public comment from the locals and put together a plan to euthanize the given amount of deer upfront and then be the on call person for additional issues that arise in town with the remaining animals and perform the additional euthanizing as required. That would give the confidence and safety of only 1 civilian individual who would be allowed to discharge a firearm in the city limits for purposes of this proposal. Given that the individual was a civilian, it would not impact the workload of the law enforcement officers. I feel it could be set up similar to the state trapper in rules and regulations. Given my background and skillset as well as my knowledge and experience with the issue at hand, in addition to my relationships with the local biologists, wardens, and former warden whom I know on a personal level, I would like to personally nominate myself as a candidate for this position. Thank you.

Curtis Cotton Missoula, MT

2. I would like to see a survey of people that would be willing to take a deer and pay for the processing them selves. I do not think the City of WSS should pay for processing deer that no one may want. I know the Food Bank here has some difficulty giving away all the elk meat that is donated and most recipients are not interested in deer meat at all. Actually I would rather see the deer darted and returned to the mountains where they belong. FW&P could probably find volunteers to help with capturing and transporting them. In short I am not in favor of the plan as proposed.

Donald Babcock White Sulphur Springs, MT

3. I would like to see a public hunting option explored as there has been for other small towns, ie Glendive. I'd rather not see a public employee utilized in this manner.

Sean Clancy Bozeman, MT